

musicians who were barred from other hotels because of racial discrimination.

Raised in the Five Points neighborhood of Denver, Cousins never had a desire to leave his beloved community. His many associations include the Five Points Media Center and the Five Points Business Association. Cousins willed the Simpson Hotel at 28th and Welton Street to the Five Points Business Association upon his death. The organization has plans to establish a work-development center and art gallery on the site.

Appointed in 1979 by Denver Mayor Bill McNichols, Cousins served on the Denver city zoning board for 23 years and served for 20 years as a member of the U.S. Olympic Organizing Committee.

Charles Cousins was also a great advocate of education. He was instrumental in the development of Cole Junior High School's extension program that provided alternative education to students who were not able to learn and achieve in a traditional school environment. He also funded many scholarships for college students. He was a fixture at Manual High School and was honored as the school's "Student of the Century" during their 100th anniversary celebration in 1994.

Charles was most proud of his civic work in the community and received numerous awards from various non-profit groups. He was a charter member of the Beta Theta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

In 2003, Charles Cousins was honored with a plaza that bears his name at the new Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Five Points. He joined his longtime friends, former Tuskegee Airman and Denver Public Schools board member Omar Blair, and former Denver City Councilman Elvin Caldwell in the naming honors of the then newest branch of the Denver Public Library.

Charles Cousins is survived by five siblings and his wife of 53 years, Dorothy. His daughter, Dr. Renee Cousins, is a Denver pediatrician.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND WORK OF VIVIAN SMITH

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it is one of my honors as a Member of Congress to pay tribute to the fine people that come along and care for our neighbors and assist our communities with their time, love, patience, sweat, financial tidings, and most importantly, compassion.

Vivian Smith, a daughter, sister, mother, grandmother and wife, served her neighbors in Scott County with that famous Tennessee volunteer spirit.

Vivian's resume of carrying for others is as long as it is distinguished. An eight year cancer survivor, Vivian served as Co-Chair of the Relay for Life and was a member of the Leadership Council and Support Group for the American Cancer Society of Scott County.

Serving the Sixth District Scott County School Board member, Vivian was also the first in the history of Scott County to obtain Level 5 Master status, awarded the National School Board Association's Recognition Award

and served on the All Tennessee School Board. She also served on the Scott County Finance Committee, Scott County Fairest of the Fair, Tennessee Scholars advisory committee, Scott County Museum advisory council, Tennessee Technology Cosmetology advisory board, Appalachian Habitat for Humanity, Clinch-Powell Educational Cooperative, Housing Opportunities of People (HOPE), Salvation Army Scott County Unit, Scott County 4-H, Leadership Scott and Youth Leadership Scott and Leadership Upper Cumberland.

Having retired from the Scott County government as Solid Waste Director, Vivian was most proud of organizing and participating in the "Scott County Looks Good to Me" and "I Spy" programs, which were notably successful anti-littering programs.

For her unwavering dedication to volunteer service she was presented the Humanitarian Award from the Scott County Chamber of Commerce. Shortly afterwards, she was presented with the Governor's Volunteer Star Award from the State of Tennessee by Governor Bredesen and was inducted into the Scott County Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame.

Vivian Smith will be sorely missed and fondly remembered for her grace, compassion and dedication to volunteerism. It has been said that she loved to serve because of the love she had for the people of Scott County. Well, Vivian, the feeling was and will forever be mutual.

TRIBUTE TO METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Metropolitan Airports Commission's board members and staff for Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's recent recognition as the Best Airport in North America and Third Best in the World in its size category.

The Airports Council International granted this award to the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport based on feedback from air travelers during the 2008 Airport Quality Survey. The 2008 airport rankings reflect the responses of more than 200,000 passengers who filled out questionnaires at 108 airports.

Minnesota is well known for the strong work ethic of its residents, and their commitment to ensuring Minnesota continues to be one of the best places to live, work and visit. Those characteristics form the foundation for the Metropolitan Airports Commission's latest outstanding accomplishment.

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport serves as Minnesota's front door for those who come to the state for business or pleasure. I invite you and all the members of this esteemed Congress to come experience the hospitality Minnesota is famous for from the moment their plane touches down on the runways of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

In closing Madam Speaker, I would like to once again extend my deepest congratulations to the Minneapolis Airports Commission hard work and great accomplishment.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Vietnam Human Rights Day and to recognize the daily struggle for freedom in Vietnam.

Fifteen years ago, Congress designated May 11th as Vietnam Human Rights Day, recognizing the plight of the people of Vietnam under the repression of their communist government. I am sad to say that these conditions persist to this day.

Just last week, Vietnam's human rights record was examined by the United Nations Human Rights Council, under the Universal Periodic Review. As part of this proceeding, numerous non-governmental organizations reported a wide range of serious abuses.

Journalists, dissidents, and whistleblowers are imprisoned merely for questioning government policies in public or calling attention to corruption or other wrongdoing. Citizens are arrested, detained, and imprisoned without due process of law. Independent political parties and labor unions are banned. In all of this, the Vietnamese government scorns the rule of law, violating its international human rights obligations and, often, its own constitution.

Abuses of religious freedom are also a serious problem. In its Annual Report for 2009, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has again called for Vietnam to be designated as a Country of Particular Concern by the State Department. I commend the Commission for making this recommendation, and urge the State Department to follow its advice.

The United States granted Vietnam Permanent Normal Trade Relations in 2006. Since then, its already abysmal human rights record has gotten even worse. Once the Vietnamese government got the trade agreement that it wanted, it felt free to escalate its repression.

It is time for the United States to consider how it can use its considerable leverage to assist those who are striving for human rights and democracy in Vietnam. I rise to honor their efforts and sacrifices.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRE-AP- PRENTICE AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the Pre-Apprentice and Apprenticeship Training Act of 2009 makes mandatory the one half of one percent of funds now available under 23 U.S.C. 140(b) to ensure federal highway funds are used to provide on-the-job training and other services to combat a serious training deficit that builds in the effects of past discrimination and that is necessary because the current cohort of journeymen and other skilled workers is retiring. Currently, only 17 states use fund previously made available for training and even that participation is spotty. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee,